BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

EX PARTE 705

COMPETITION IN THE RAILROAD INDUSTRY

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ARKANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION'S NOTICE OF INTENT OF TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC HEARING

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Dated: June 10, 2011

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ARKANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION'S NOTICE OF INTENT OF TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the Board's notice served January 11, 2011, as amended by decision served February 4, 2011, Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC) 1/gives notice of its intent to participate in the public hearing scheduled for June 22, 2011. At the public hearing, AECC's views will be presented by Jonathan Oliver. Mr. Oliver is AECC's Vice President of Engineering, Construction and Operations. 2/ AECC requests that the Board allow 10 minutes

Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation is a membership-based generation and transmission cooperative that provides wholesale electric power to electric cooperatives, which in turn serve approximately 490,000 customers, or members, located in each of the 75 counties in Arkansas. In order to serve its 17 member distribution cooperatives, AECC has entered into arrangements with other utilities within the state to share generation and transmission facilities. For example, AECC holds ownership interests in the White Bluff plant at Redfield, Ark. and the Independence plant at Newark, Ark., each of which typically uses in excess of 6 million tons of Powder River Basin (PRB) coal each year. In addition, AECC holds an ownership interest in the Flint Creek plant, at Gentry, Ark., which normally uses in excess of 2 million tons of PRB coal each year. Because of the large volume of coal consumed by these plants, the need for long-distance rail transportation to move this coal and the absence of rail competition at two of the plants, AECC has a direct interest in issues related to railroad competition and competitive access.

^{2/} A summary of Mr. Oliver's background and experience is included as Appendix A.

for Mr. Oliver's comments. Written testimony on the issues Mr. Oliver will address at the hearing is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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